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Letter dated 26 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached hereto a statement by the Government of Yemen condemning the terrorist attack by the Houthi militias against the Saudi oil tankers in the Red Sea (see annex).

I would greatly appreciate it if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council .

(*Signed*) Ahmed Awad **BinMubarak**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 26 July 2018 from the Permanent Representative of Yemen to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement by the Government of Yemen on the Houthis' attack on Saudi Oil Tankers in the Red Sea

26 July 2018

The Government of the Republic of Yemen condemns the Houthis' attack on the two oil tankers belonging to the National Shipping Company of Saudi Arabia, each carrying 2 million barrels of crude oil, after crossing the Bab al-Mandeb Strait in the Red Sea on Wednesday morning (July 25, 2018).

The Government calls on the international community to support its campaign efforts to liberate the western coast of Yemen from the Iranian-backed Houthi militias and to pressure them to withdraw from Hodeida. The Government stresses that the continued Houthi control of Hodeida's strategic harbor and the western coast will pose a threat to international navigation.

This terrorist attack was not the first but comes in the context of similar operations carried out by the Houthis to threaten the international shipping movement and to harm the interests of Yemen and the world. The Houthis have in the past targeted an Emirati cargo ship, launched repeated attacks on other ships, and planted hundreds of sea mines that threaten Yemeni fishermen and shipping lanes in the Red Sea.

The Government points out that this terrorist attack took place while the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Yemen, Mr. Martin Griffiths, is in the capital city Sanaa carrying out his mediation efforts on Hodeida. The Government further notes that this attack came about right after Iran's threats on international shipping lanes and oil exports from neighboring countries.

The Government points out that over the past three years, and during every round of the previous peace talks, the Houthis had always sought to undermine peace by instigating crises which constitutes a major challenge to the peace process in Yemen.

The Government reiterates its call for the international community's support to put an end to such terrorist attacks by the Houthis in accordance with international maritime laws and conventions. The Government further stresses that the safety of international maritime navigation in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandeb strait is one of its priorities and that it will not allow any party to harm its vital interests.